



SUSAN STACK
CHAIRMAN

STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Human Services Commission

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HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

Monday, April 14, 2014

Minutes of the Meeting

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Sue Stack, Chairman at 6:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Sue Stack, Helen Filloramo, Anne Nickerson, Teresa Cavanagh, Sue Hannigan, Richard Petrucci.

PRESENTATION: Diane-Lasher Penti, Youth Services Director and Deb Stauffer, Prevention Coordinator, gave a presentation on programs, services, and grant updates. The results of the recent drug and alcohol survey conducted in the Ellington schools for grades 6-12 were distributed and discussed.

Youth Services has applied and submitted a Drug Free Community Grant. This grant will address the “perception of harm “and the “other” people supplying alcohol to youth in town. Both of these perceptions were a part of the survey. Grants have helped to pay for a substance abuse counselor at the high school and to pay for extra police patrols on special weekends and events. These are two of the reasons that maintaining grants are important.

The Rise Above program currently has 40 active members. Based at the high school, it has been a great program with a very good following. The Side-by-Side program is for 6th graders and currently has 15 members who work with resident troopers to plan events.

The presentation ended with a discussion of the new building addition. The addition will provide an activity room for Youth Services, along with an office and waiting room. An idea was mentioned to have young artists show their artwork at the new senior center. The presentation ended at 6:25 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motioned (S. Stack), Seconded (R. Petrucci) and passed by those present to accept the minutes of the March 10, 2014 meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: S. Stack, chairman distributed and discussed the report. (See attached.) A discussion pursued on the senior center open house. The commission expressed general disappointment with the fact that Wayne Reynolds was not publicly recognized at the opening and also that there wasn't a formal invitation extended to the Commission. The Commission was also disappointed that they really were not taken up on their offer to help at the opening.

SENIOR CENTER STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: There was an article in the *Journal Inquirer* concerning the budget and there was general agreement to stay on top of this issue and to stay informed.

NEW BUSINESS: The Commission is looking for clarification on policies and procedures at the senior center, specifically for the kitchen. What is needed to become certified and get the kitchen in working order. A suggestion was made to have kitchen policies posted for public knowledge and awareness. Members asked if it were possible to get a list of items needed for the kitchen. Members also wanted to know if donations can be made for specific items and who will decide how future donated funds will be used.

A. Nickerson suggested that the senior center should look into Glastonbury's Friendship Circle as a great program for seniors who are home alone and suffer from Alzheimer's, Parkinsons, etc. She recently found out at a meeting she attended that most seniors in this situation wouldn't end up eating meals if they are home alone. She feels it would be beneficial to look into having a program like this in town. Ms. Nickerson also expressed concern over the Parkinson's Group possibly not being able to meet at the senior center on the third Friday of month from 10 am-noon. This might be due to the acoustics at the center but some clarification might be necessary.

ADJOURNMENT: Motioned (S. Hannigan), Seconded (R. Petrucci) and passed by all those present to adjourn at 7:20 P.M.

Submitted by,

Teresa Cavanagh
Acting Secretary